MATWATCH

16 Robin Hood Lane Jackson TN 38305

VOL. 3, NO. 12 SEPT. 17-23, 1990

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

STARRCADE MOVED TO ST. LOUIS SITE

ATLANTA---STARRCADE '90 has been moved to St. Louis for the Dec. 15 pay-per-view show.

World Championship Wrestling, Inc., tentatively reached agreement to move the show from St. Petersburg last week.

The NWA has lost several key Florida TV stations in recent weeks, including a prime slot in Tampa-St. Petersburg, the nation's 15th television market.

EDDIE GILBERT MULLS OFFER FROM TITAN

LEXINGTON TN---Eddie Gilbert is in a dilemma many wrestling performers would envy.

Gilbert is reportedly mulling an offer from World Wrestling Federation senior producer Bruce Prichard to become a producer of one of the WWF television series.

MATWATCH has not been told which series Gilbert would be assigned or a specific salary offer. However, Gilbert has two more weeks to consider the offer.

The offer comes amid speculation the former UWF and NWA star may become booker for the USWA Memphis promotion. Gilbert is also being sought by at least one other group.

USWA TOURNAMENT SCHEDULED OCT. 8

MEMPHIS---A one-night tournament to determine a new USWA heavyweight champion will be held at the Mid-South Coliseum Oct. 8.

The tourney, to fill the vacancy left when Snowman (Eddie Crawford) bolted the promotion in dispute over a proposed program to drop the belt, will feature several outside stars.

The Memphis group is trying to sign Terry Funk, Austin Idol, Mark Callous and Paul Orndorff to work the event.

Eddie Gilbert and former four-time USWA champion Jerry Lawler are co-favorites but some insiders say Funk may be given the belt on a short-term basis, if he agrees to work the tourney.

But Still Controls Syndie Network

JARRETT GIVES KEVIN CONTROL OF DALLAS

You will find more to this story than meets the headline. Avoiding a prolonged court case, USWA majority owner Jerry Jarrett agreed Thursday to turn over control of the Texas-based promotion to minority owner Kevin Von Erich Thursday in Dallas. But Jarrett retains control over the Andrews Entertainment syndicated TV network and ESPN time slots.

Von Erich had filed an injunction more than two weeks ago against Jarrett, contending the Memphis/Dallas promoter had illegally taken control of the old World Class promotion nearly two years ago. The injunction temporarily barred Jarrett from using the Von Erich name or likeness on any USWA shows. Von Erich, who was denied in an attempt to take over booking of the Dallas/USWA group four weeks ago, charged Jarrett was only brought in as a chief operating officer and was never meant to gain 60 per cent stock control.

Jarrett produced a 12-page contract for Von Erich's lawyers which his attorneys contend adequately support his position of majority control. The question a number of observers have been asking is: if Jarrett's position was sound, why did he cede the group to Von Erich? Several key reasons are evident:

***CONTROL OF THE SYNDICATION NETWORK: Without the massive 105-station television network (which just lost outlets in Baltimore and Tampa but added one in Boston) handled by syndicator Andrews Entertainment, the best Von Erich and apparent partner Gary Hart can hope to put together (likely with the old WORLD CLASS name) is a Texas roster of stations. Jarrett, for an interim period, is expected to either tape the USWA show in Memphis or show a number of recent Mid-South Coliseum matches for his "A" CHALLENGE show. Plus, AWA officials acknowledged last week a MATWATCH report of three weeks ago that they are losing their weekly Monday slot on ESPN to Jarrett, who also retains his three-day-a-week 4 p.m. (EDT) LEGENDS slot.

***AVAILABILITY OF WRESTLERS: Insiders MATWATCH has spoken with believe few existing USWA wrestlers will go over to the Von Erich/Hart camp and lead announcer Craig Johnson is firmly committed to Jarrett. One source very close to the group told MATWATCH: "Any who do go to work for Kevin will probably come running back in a month."

***USWA TOURNAMENT: As far as TV coverage, Jarrett appears to be well in the driver's seat as, during his hiatus from Dallas, he will probably run key matches from the USWA heavyweight championship tournament on his syndicated shows, which could include some major names (see opposite column and page 5).

But all of these factors aside, there remains another more underlying key: Jarrett's shrewdness as a businessman. "A lot of people are asking

STEVE BEVERLY

(Continued from Page 1)

why Jarrett just let Kevin have it when he probably could have won the thing in court," a key insider told us. "The fact is: even a short court fight would have been expensive. But here's the real key: until now, Jarrett only owned 60 per cent of USWA. But if Kevin goes in there and without strong TV, bombs out in a month or two, Jarrett will be primed to go right back into the Sportatorium. And this time, he'll go in as 100 per cent owner. Plus, he has the syndication and ESPN all locked up, so he'd be hard put to lose."

Jerry Jarrett promotions are always lean operations. Most of his wrestlers do not make big bucks except when outside talent is brought in for special shows, such as the upcoming tournament. He does not spend big money on travel costs (virtually all of the Memphis-area shows are within driving distance each night) and with the exception of the Mid-South Coliseum, with which he has a special deal for his weekly Monday bookings, he does not have expensive rent for big arenas.

A source in a position to know recently told me Jarrett's books look as good as you could imagine for an operation his size and he continues to turn a profit in what is the leanest of times for independent groups.

Most insiders are predicting Jarrett will win whatever fight there is here because of his savvy in business. Regardless, the consensus is his giving Dallas back to Kevin Von Erich may, in time, reap one of his biggest victories ever.

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Pinfall Profile

IN DEFENSE OF BOB CAUDLE

Once when a member of a church was defending one of the policies of my father, the pastor, Daddy calmly answered, "I need no defense." Perhaps that is true in this case but I have a few comments, nonetheless, to make.

I have only met NWA announcer Bob Caudle three times. I often relate such statistics simply to support that certain wrestling personalities are not lifelong buddies. I further support anyone's right to a viewpoint concerning anyone's work, including my own. We have a First Amendment which supports such exercises.

However, I have read comments in other publications and had a few calls myself from people suggesting Bob, who has spent most of the summer co-hosting WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING and has been the predominant sidekick of Jim Ross on NWA pay-per-view shows, is "boring," "dull," or "the business has passed him by." I beg to differ.

In my view, Bob Caudle still personnifies a smooth, well-versed, competent wrestling commentator. He prepares. He knows the history of most of the NWA performers, dating back to his years as host of Jim Crockett Sr.'s old ALL-STAR WRESTLING in the Carolinas. He may toss in the occasional cliche but so does every announcer in the business, including Ross, McMahon and Schiavone.

Is Bob colorful? In the manner of a Roddy Piper or a Jerry Lawler, no. Is he an antagonist to the primary host? Hardly and he isn't called on to be. Is he a carnival barker, a la Vince McMahon? No, and he'd fail miserably if he tried. It's not his personality.

One of the key reasons I believe Bob Caudle has been a 30-year survivor in this profession is he has the kind of low-key, non-abrasive, well-wearing approach as some of TV's pioneer personalities through the years: Garry Moore, Art Linkletter and Bob Barker, all of whom have specialized in letting the show itself be the story and not overpowering it with too much of self.

Except with viewers in the Carolinas, Bob probably doesn't have the name recognition of today's premier commentators or color announcers, simply because he hasn't sought to dominate his field. He allows the wrestling itself to be the star and, at times, in today's highly-antiseptic TV productions, that, to me, is welcome. Plus, he maintains a boyish enthusiasm about the industry he has seen change dramatically over the years. And he's no one's fool. The first time I met Bob, he predicted for me pay-per-view would be the future of wrestling, even when many still called it a passing fad.

I've read some of the recent critical letters and I often come to the conclusion that every time a promotion uses someone new on color commentary, if he isn't the next Jesse Ventura, he's doomed as a failure. Folks, there was and is only one Jesse and despite numerous attempts to clone him, he is unique and probably the high casualty rate of color announcers is attributable to too many vain attempts to duplicate Ventura. That's not to say there aren't bad color commentators and, heavens, we've named a few here we'd prefer never to hear again at the sidekick mike. But there are different styles to color work and just because a Bob Caudle isn't a "lovable heel" with a quick-witted LINE OF THE WEEK every five minutes doesn't mean he is not competent at his work. He is and---I predict---always will be.

The irony of it all is that Bob still does this because he enjoys it (and for what he's paid by TBS). He has been a respected aide to Sen. Jesse Helms in Helms' Raleigh office for years and could walk away tomorrow and still have a respectable career in public affairs.

But Bob still works because he simply still gets a kick out of what he does and, most of all, has a knack few people in television ever master: Bob knows how to be himself on the air. I happen to admire that and wish I could harness it for my young newscasters. Your witness, Mr. Mason.

TV TEMPO

Sept. 10-16

(LUCHA LIBRE) - Justiciero/Octagon/Misterioso d. Jaque Mate/ Fuerza Guerrera/el Hijo del Gladiador 2-3 falls; La Nueva Ola Blanca d. Vince Apollo/Super Astro/Apolo Dantes 2-3; Lizmark/Atlantis/Mascara Sagrada d. Los Brazos 2-3; Perro Aguayo/Cien Caras/Mascara Ano Dos Mil double DQ vs. el Hijo del Santo/Salomon Grundy/el Rayo de Jalisco Jr. when Aguayo rips off Santo's mask and Jalisco rips Caras' mask; (HAIR 6-MAN): Ringo Mendoza/El Faraon d. MS I/Masakre. PILEDRIVER.

(PORTLAND) - [2 Wks. Ago]: John Rambo d. Spoiler; Steve Sawyer d. Robert Blair by DQ; Scott Norton d. Doug Masters; Steve Doll d. Jonathan Holliday by DQ; (LUMBERJACK STRAP/PNW TAG TITLE) Al Madril/Ricky Santana d. Grappler/Equalizer to keep belts when Ricky ducks Grap's object & Eq hit. After, as Grap/Eq strapped by faces, Al & Ricky return to save & brawl ensues; (ANGLE) Grap tries to sign Blair for Wrecking Crew. Blair refuses until Sawyer pounds on Grap & Blair gets him from behind; (VIDEO) Ric Flair/Arn Anderson introduce Brad Anderson as "The Baby Horseman." RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[Last Week]: Larry Oliver/Sawyer d. Santana/Madril & after, heels double on Larry until Rip Oliver saves & Olivers double clothesline Santana; Scotty the Body double countout vs. Grappler, then Scotty removes Grap's boots, socks to pound & choke, Grap juices; Rambo d. Masters; Norton d. Equalizer by DQ; Doll d. Santana by DQ (over-top); (ANGLE) As Grap is interviewed, Scotty attacks him w. strap; (FIESTA GARDEN) Anderson (arm in sling) claims 3 of Steve Doll's men attacked him. Doll denies but Santana attacks Doll. RESTHOLD.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: Warlord d. Barry Hardy; Tugboat d. Bob Bradley; (UPDATE) Von Erich-Hennig feud; Koko B. Ware d. Dale Wolfe; Nikoli Volkoff d. Brooklyn Brawler; Jimmy Snuka d. Boris Zhukov; (BRO. LUV) Ultimate Warrior tells Sherri Martel Randy Savage has found "luv" with another after she slaps him 3 times; Akeem d. Ron Cumberland; (SEGMENT) Mean Gene w. Rick Martel; Rhythm & Blues d. Todd Champion/Jim McPherson; Sgt. Slaughter d. Jim Powers; Power & Glory d. Dave Paradise/Shane Douglas. BOMB-PLUS.

(WWF/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: Akeem d. Cumberland; Marty Jannetty d. Wolfe; Earthquake d. Sonny Blaze; Barbarian d. Scott Summers; Demolition d. Rico Frederico/Bland/Freeman; Jim Duggan d. Bradley. BOMB-PLUS.
[SUPERSTARS]: Hart Foundation d. Brooklyn Brawler/Paul Perez; Warlord d. Michael Warren; Ted DiBiase d. Ross Lindsay; Tugboat d. Bradley; Curt Hennig d. McPherson; Orient Express d. Powers/George Skaaland; Sama Simba d. Chris Duffy; (UPDATE): Sherri-Bro. LUV-Ultimate Warrior seg; (BRO. LUV) Legion of Doom overpowers Bruce. RESTHOLD.

(PRO WRESTLING '90) - Fabian d. John McDaniels; Dino Minelli d. Eddie Sweat; (From LPWA) Bad Girl d. Misty Blue Simmes when Bugaloo Brown interferes; (CLASSIC) Ali Baba d. Red Brannigan; Hillbillies d. Death Row; (From WWC) Detroit Demolition double countout vs. Rufus R. Jones; (ANGLE) Sheik tries to burn American flag. Nick Busich saves flag but is beaten by Sheik's brigade; Ravishing Russ d. Tim Wayne; Jack Victory d. The Terrorist. RESTHOLD.

(NWA/SYND.) - [WORLD WIDE]: Junkyard Dog d. Krusher Knopf; Brad Armstrong d. Doug Vines; (WCW THIS WEEK) Vicious-Sting angle at CLASH; Bambi d. Peggy Lee Leathers; DOOM d. Dave Johnson/Lou Perez; (ANGLE) DOOM, Horsemen get into standoff at dressing room; Lex Luger d. Scotty Williams; Danny Spivey d. Dave Diamond; Terry Taylor d. Buddy Landell. RESTHOLD.
[NWA PRO]: Freebirds d. Scott Armstrong/Barry Horowitz; (DANGER ZONE) Paul E. recaps CLASH XII; Taylor d. Joe Cezana; Bambi/Reno Riggins d. Leathers/Bill Ford; Spivey d. Perez; Flair d. Bob Holly; Midnight Express vs. Steiners in progress when show ends. Scott decks Cornette but Eaton swats Scott w. racket. RESTHOLD.

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale rating.

(USWA/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: (CLIP) Jeff Jarrett burned by Skandor Akbar; Rod Price d. Skip Young when Iceman Parsons distracts Young; Dazzling Denise d. Sweet Georgia Brown; Jarrett/Jerry Lawler/Bill Dundee d. Gary Young/John Tatum/Akbar; (REPLAY) Toni Adams-J. Clarke angle. RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[BEST OF CHAMPIONSHIP]: Eddie Marlin strips Snowman of USWA title; Brian Lee/Don Harris d. Ken Raper/Freezer Thompson; (From MID-SOUTH) Brickhouse Brown wins battle royal but Eddie Gilbert steals "$5,000" & attacks Marlin; (ANGLE) Lawler-Gilbert car rundown angle; Tony Anthony/Keith Eric d. Rex King/Joey Maggs when Dirty White Girl runs in; Kowabunga d. Eric; Dundee/Jeff Gaylord d. Twilight Zone. DRAW.

(LPWA) - [SYNDICATION]: Nasty Girls d. Mighty Mites; Bambi d. Jan Flame; Glamour Girls d. Terry Power (Tailor-Made Medina)/Osaka. RESTHOLD.

(ICW) - Sheepherders d. Kahlua/Callahan; Carlos Colon d. Medic; Dory Funk Jr. d. Disario; Invader II & III d. Taurus Bulba/McSlade; Wild Samoans d. Paul Diamond/Raymond Rose; Ric Flair d. Pat Rose. NO RATING OFFERED...how old are these???

(AWA/ESPN) - Larry Cameron d. Jake Milliman; (BEHIND THE 8-BALL MATCH): Mike Enos wins; (AWA LT. HWT. TITLE): Buck Zumhofe d. Jonnie Stewart to win belt. BOMB.

(USWA/WMC) - Anthony/Doug Gilbert d. Hall/Raper; (ANGLE) Dirty White Girl slaps Bill Dundee twice before Vicious Vicki shows up and goes after DWG. Anthony/Doug double on Dundee & Anthony goes after Vicki but Bill bashes Tony w. chair; (MID-SOUTH) Gilbert-Lawler ambulance match; (PORTAGEVILLE MO) Gilberts/Sam Lowe attack Lawler w. chair on leg. Brian Lee/Don Harris keep dressing room barricaded but let Brickhouse Brown out to be hung w. noose by Anthony. Ref Greg Wayne attacks senior ref Jerry Calhoun. Because of this, Eddie Marlin bars Eddie Gilbert from studio; Nightstalker vs. Chris Frazier no contest when the banned Eddie attacks both guys, then brings out Wayne as new member of "King's Court;" Danny Davis d. Keith Eric; (ANGLE) Davis refuses offer to join Eddie's "court;" Brown/Dundee d. Scorpions; (MID-SOUTH) Frank Morrell d. Downtown Bruno but Lee/Harris/Bruno triple on Frank after; (MID-SOUTH/USWA TAG TITLE) Lee/Harris d. Jarrett/Gaylord when Bruno throws flour in Gaylord's face; Lee/Harris d. T.D. Steel/Haynes by DQ when Jarrett/Gaylord run in & throw Gold Medal flour in heels' faces; Jarrett/Gaylord d. Twilight Zone. DRAW-PLUS.

(NWA/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Taylor d. Horowitz; Spivey d. Perez; Rock & Roll Express d. Mike Thor/J.D. Wolfe; Freebirds d. Zan Panzer/Rose; (CHINA CLUB) Paul E. buys drinks for entire

[PH/cont.] - club w. expired VISA card, then goes nuts when handed $4,000 bill; (WNN) Bob Caudle discusses Pillman RUNNING THE GAUNTLET; (ANGLE) DOOM, Flair/Arn get into dressing room spat; (LOUISVILLE SLUGGER) Cornette recaps Sid Vicious attack on Sting; (GAUNTLET I) Brian Pillman d. Tim Horner. RESTHOLD.
[WCW]: Taylor d. Death Row; Steiners d. Stone/James Solomon; (WRAPUP) DOOM/Horsemen flap; DOOM d. Rose/Riggins; (REPLAY) first Scorpion tape; (CLASH) Flair-Luger & Hansen run-in; (GAUNTLET II) Pillman d. Landell; Allen Iron Eagle/Wendell Cooley d. State Patrol; Horner d. Snake Watson; Spivey d. Rick Ford. RESTHOLD.
[MAIN EVENT]: (GAUNTLET III) Spivey d. Pillman.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Ric Flair, PORTLAND, on Brad Anderson: "When he hits town, Don Owen, tell Roddy Piper to stay home." 2. Bill Prescott, PORTLAND: "Madril came up and told me to get a haircut. I told him to get a transplant." 3. Bobby Heenan, PTW: "You put about another 100 pounds on Akeem and get that beard a little bushier and you've got Bossman's mom." 4. Heenan, PTW, on Bossman's mom: "She was the centerfold for SWINE WEEKLY." 5. Dutch Mantel, WWW, on Terry Taylor: "He's an EGG-sucking dog. He's just a big chicken." 6. Brickhouse Brown, WMC: "I need a car like KOJAK need a wig." 7. Eddie Gilbert, HENDERSON COUNTY FAIR, to Steve Beverly: "I bet you never thought a year ago you'd be spending a Thursday night at a fair in Lexington, Tennessee." 8. Paul E. Dangerously, PH: "I'm God's gift to New York." 9. Paul E., PH: "I learned how to handle tapes from the best guy in the business: Richard Nixon." 10. Roddy Piper, WWF: "The Warlord doesn't need a doctor. He needs a veterinarian."

11. Piper, WWF, on Mr. Fuji: "That's 17 years worth of growth on that goatee." 12. Jim Ross, PH, on J.D. Wolfe: "He looks like a walking barber pole." 13. Bill Dundee, WMC, to DWG: "I bet you eat Alpo, fried or baked, every morning." 14. Steve Doll, PORTLAND, to Flair: "This isn't Atlanta. This is Portland, Oregon: my home." 15. Heenan, PTW: "Bossman's mother has a nice scent. Ever heard of Liquid Wrench?" 16. Heenan, PTW: "Five large people can sit in the Bossman's mom's shorts---and bring a friend." 17. Animal, WWF, to Bro. LUV: "We ain't your stinkin' brother and if you were, you wouldn't be here." 18. Sean Mooney/Alfred Hayes, PTW: (SM) "Dave Paradise has not landed in paradise." (AH) "This is no Garden of Eden." 19. Tony Schiavone, WWW, to Mantel: "You're not really a funny guy, you know that?" 20. Mantel, WWW: "When I register at a hotel under the name Sting or Luger, the phone never rings."

21. Piper, WWF, on Bro. LUV: "He's got a lower-lip problem." 22. Piper, WWF: "I don't kiss on the first date."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Black Scorpion, WCW: "Sid Vicious wants your title. I want your life." 2. Eddie Gilbert, WMC: "I'm not obsessed with you, Lawler. I'm obsessed with being the King." 3. Paul E., PH: "Terry Taylor has a long way to go to get back to the top of the NWA." 4. Sean Mooney, PTW, on Heenan: "I'm surprised anyone known as The Brain would be so unintelligent as to criticize the Bossman's mom."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Piper, WWF: "Am I the only one who doesn't turn his back on his opponent?" 2. Dave Brown, WMC, to Gilbert: "Have you got a short memory?" 3. Paul E., PH: "Why did Gordon go on vacation? Can I host WRESTLING NEWS NETWORK?" 4. Bob Caudle, WCW: "Why don't I pass for 14 and get in with you and get one of those free Sting watches?"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. THE LAST HERO OF NEW YORK (Paul E. on himself). 2. THE GREAT IMITATOR (Paul E. on Cornette). 3. BOXCAR (Gorilla Monsoon on Greg Valentine).

BEST PICTURES - 1. PH, Paul E.'s face when told he owed $4,800 to China Club. 2. USWA, John Tatum's expression going over top rope. 3. WWF, Tony Atlas' Sama Simba dance. 4. WMC, Lawler-Gilbert MID-SOUTH brawl. 5. WWW, Stan Lane shaking hands w. fans. 6. WWW, Closeup of Eaton clotheslining Scott Steiner. 7. WWW, Scott decking Cornette & being decked w. racket. 8. WMC, Flour attack by Jarrett/Gaylord.

BLOOPER AWARD - Sid Vicious, WWW, on CLASH run in on Sting: "If you think it's bad what I did to you in GREENVILLE..." (Match was in Asheville, N.C.).

DREADED GLITCH AWARD - WMC, Lawler had to verbally cue audio of crowd noise on video from Portageville MO.

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Teddy Long, NWA: "...bitten off more than they can chew." 2. Thunderbolt Patterson, WCW: "...the sky's the limit."

BOO AWARD - NWA, for Black Scorpion line, "I want your life." With the many kids who follow Sting, that was too much, no matter how dark the character is.

WWF GETS FOX SPEC; KONGI PUT ON HOLD

LOS ANGELES---The World Wrestling Federation has reached agreement for a February prime-time special on the FOX network. The WWF apparently was not given a fourth annual prime time slot on NBC. Titan retains its SATURDAY NIGHT'S MAIN EVENT specials on NBC.

Kongi Sports, headed by Joe Pedicino, which had been negotiating with FOX, was told of the decision Friday. Pedicino was told by a FOX executive the network will continue to talk with Kongi if its proposed promotion gets off the ground early next year. But FOX chairman Barry Diller said the network went with the WWF for what has been described as a two-hour "one time" special because of its track record.

ADAMS, AKBAR'S GROUP WORK FOR KEVIN

DALLAS----Chris Adams and several members of Skandor Akbar's heel group worked Kevin Von Erich's WORLD CLASS show at the Sportatorium Friday night.

MATWATCH has learned Adams has been a catalyst in forging the split between Von Erich and Jerry Jarrett. But Akbar and a number or wrestlers called Jarrett to ask permission to work the show. Jarrett reportedly agreed in order to allow the performers to maintain an income.

Rev. Bob Holly was play-by-play announcer for the broadcast but details were sketchy at deadline as to when or if the program would air.

TUBE TALK: Herb Abrams plans a Thursday night UWF date in Reseda CA. Correspondent Chris Crosby will be there. Nikita Koloff, the Sammartinos and Lou Albano were at the Anaheim fiasco. Only 30 fans showed. Lots of countercharges flying.

MEMPHIS STEAMBOAT: Negotiations are close to bringing Ricky Steamboat to Memphis for the Oct. 8 USWA tournament. Talks are going on with Bonnie Steamboat for a possible two-week swing to the mid-South.

AND STILL MORE: Mark Callous is definitely penciled in for the tourney, along with Austin Idol (see page 1) and a stab is being made to get Steve Williams if he's not on a Japan tour.

LAST WEEK AT MID-SOUTH: In the "ambulance" match, Eddie Gilbert tried to spray ink in Jerry Lawler's eye but Lawler ducked and Gilbert inked Sam Lowe, who wound up being the one calling for the ambulance. The show only drew $8,000.

HOME VIDEOS: In Portageville MO Friday night, Gilbert and Lawler did a wild angle which was reportedly only captured by a fan who "happened" to have a VHS camcorder at the show. It was shown Saturday morning on WMC.

NONE NEXT MONDAY: Memphis Monday night was to end up with a blind man's battle royal and the winner was to pick between two covered-up Buicks and if a heel one, he was to select a beaten-up bomb.

FLORIDA FORTUNES: NWA has lost an estimated four hours of TV time across the state of Florida, which has contributed, in part, to the move of STARRCADE to St. Louis from St. Pete.

HAVOC OPTIONS: Don't be surprised to hear Ric Flair-Scott Steiner, Rick Steiner-Danny Spivey and another go of Midnights-Zenk/Pillman at HALLOWEEN HAVOC but it could change.

GOING HOME?: One offshoot of the Kevin Von Erich/Gary Hart promotion in Dallas is reported negotiations for Akeem to leave the WWF to return as The One-Man Gang in Texas. At least that's what's being discussed.

POSTPONEMENTS: Herb Abrams' long-discussed UWF, which was to have taped TV at Anaheim CA last Thursday night was postponed for its debut. Recordings went on at the arena Thursday. At deadline, no explanations had been given but Danny Spivey, announced as B. Brian Blair's opponent in the main event, withdrew after his return to the NWA and Cactus Jack was to sub as his foe. Bob Orton Jr. was the only other notable on the card.

WOULD YOU PAY IT?: Despite all the controversy surrounding Abrams' promotion, I have a strong feeling the delay centers around ticket sales. Tickets were priced at $18 and $21 and not even the WWF charges that for its TV tapings.

WE'D WELCOME IT: Dave Meltzer, Wade Keller and I were told Abrams, distraught at bulletin coverage of the UWF, wanted to come on PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT in New York with the three of us Sept. 9. John Arezzi couldn't technically pull in a fourth phone guest but I, for one, would have welcomed it and I'm sure Dave and Wade would, too. I would have asked how Bruiser Brody was going to wrestle for him.

MORE CLASH ANALYSIS: If you want another key reason why the Flair-Luger match was such a draw for CLASH XII, consider this: with the NWA pay-per-view shows only averaging 170,000-220,000 buys, a vast majority of people in the 3.8 million homes tuned to that CLASH match had never seen those two go at it live, so the five pay matches had not burned the bulk of basic cable viewers.

MATWATCHING

CALLOUS CAPERS: We're told Mean Mark's booked for Japan but will likely have a start date with the WWF shortly after the SURVIVOR SERIES.

GOING FISHING: WWF, still trying to freshen its roster, has reportedly had informal contact with three or four NWA contract performers but with the Steiners reportedly agreeing to an extension, it won't be them.

SLAMMER AWARDS: Verne Langdon's SLAMMERS WRESTLING GYM celebrates its anniversary Saturday and Sunday in Studio City CA. Congrats to Verne, who will be holding his second annual LEGEND AWARDS.

THE HONOREES: This year, Verne will honor Terry Funk, Barry Windham, Count Billy Varga, Bobby Heenan, Dick ("The Destroyer") Beyers, Karl Von Hess, Bette Clarke, Roddy Piper and Bruno Sammartino. Not all will be able to attend but penciled in as guest presenters are Judi Evans of DAYS OF OUR LIVES, Jason (WONDER YEARS) Hervey, John Tolos, Alaskan Jay York, Gene LaBell and The Fabulous Moolah.

PORTLAND POOPING: Our key Portland watchers tell us the show is suffering from burnout. Aside from the recent Scotty the Body-Grappler brawl and the heel vs. heel Pacific NW tag title match, a lot of the new guys are too inexperienced to get a lot of heat.

THREE-WAY WAR: How's this for competition...effective last Saturday in Memphis, at the 11 a.m. hour, the live USWA show in Memphis on WMC faced the head-on challenge of NWA PRO (on WPTY, the Fox affil) and WWF SUPERSTARS on the #2 indie.

THURSDAY IN TAMPA: Steve Keirn kept the Florida title over Jim Backlund but Johnny Ace attacked Keirn from behind after. Mark Starr & Sgt. Rock beat Hurricane Walker (subbing for Mike Graham) & Joe Gomez to win the Florida tag belts and Dick Slater won over the Lebanese Assassin.

LION IN A CAGE: Backlund and the Terminator are now being managed in PWF by Tampa deejay Johnny B. Lion, who was locked in a cage during the Keirn-Backlund match.

WOULD YOU BELIEVE?: I spent last Thursday night emceeing the Little Miss and Little Mr. Henderson County Pageant in Lexington TN at the county fair, produced and directed by Mrs. Peggy Gilbert, whose two sons are known hit-and-run drivers. Yeah, they were there, too. I succeeded last year's emcee, Missy Hyatt, so you know the crowd didn't have as much to look at onstage.

SPEAKING OF: Lawler is still feeling the effects of the crash his hip took against Gilbert's windshield. He wasn't able to fall the way he'd planned and he's still plenty sore.

LATE RAP: USA WWF ALL-AMERICAN, ratings not available last week, posted a 2.4/7.6 (1.29 million homes) Sept. 2.

RATINGS RAP

WCW STILL HOT BUT NME, PRIME TIME FEEL NFL BITE

TBS' WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING posted its strongest numbers in seven weeks Sept. 8, even opposite stronger college football competition from ABC and ESPN, posting a 2.9 rating for its two-hour slot.

However, WCW's 6.2 per cent share is down a full point from the previous week, indicating while WCW actually gained total viewers, a greater percentage of the audience is tuning to football (Clemson-Virginia and Oklahoma-UCLA were opposite to most of the nation).

PRIME TIME WRESTLING, returning after a two-week Monday hiatus and facing a tight 49ers-Saints premiere week matchup on NFL MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL, took its usual September nose-dive, helped little by its Jimmy Snuka-Boris Zhukov topliner.

NWA MAIN EVENT suffered the biggest crash, dropping from a 18% from the previous week's 2.8, despite a Lex Luger-Barry Windham headliner, as strong competition chipped away from the U.S. Open tennis finals and NBC doubleheader NFL football. POWER HOUR was pre-empted for Braves-Padres baseball (see related story on opposite column).

CABLE

Week Ending Sept. 10	Rating	Share	Total Homes
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 9/8)	2.9	6.2	1.62 million
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 9/10)	2.6	4.4	1.4 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 9/9)	2.4	7.2	1.29 million
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 9/9)	2.3	4.3	1.29 million
NWA MAIN EVENT (Replay) (TBS 9/8)	0.9	7.3	504,000

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In Late October

NWA POWER HOUR MOVES TO SATURDAY

ATLANTA---In a move much-discussed over the past two months between World Championship Wrestling, Inc., and parent company Turner Broadcasting System, the NWA POWER HOUR will move to a Saturday morning time slot either Oct. 20 or 27.

The show will air in the 10 a.m. (EDT) time slot once held by the old Jim Crockett CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING and NWA SUPER-BOUTS (WCW repeats) on TBS.

Jim Ross and Paul E. Dangerously will continue to host the show and no basic changes are scheduled in the format, including future launches of RUNNING THE GAUNTLET segments on TBS weekend wrestling shows.

The decision was made after a summer of sub-par ratings on Friday nights which some NWA insiders attribute to being "moved all over the schedule to accommodate Braves baseball and never having a consistent lead-in."

The latest POWER HOUR (Aug. 31) for which Nielsen ratings were available listed the series with a 1.4 rating and 2.8 share. But PH was only fed an 0.9 cable lead-in by the Braves, who have had much worse ratings erosion on TBS.

The switch will end 15 months of Friday-through-Sunday NWA weekends on TBS. POWER HOUR premiered in July 1989. The 7:05 a.m. Saturday wrestling slot, which has been used for replays of the previous night's PH, will be dropped and replaced by GUNSMOKE.

LANDELL HELD AFTER JACKSON MATCHES

JACKSON TN---NWA wrestler Buddy Landell was held by police here Sept. 7 after an altercation with a fan which extended to the parking lot of Oman Arena.

According to police and eyewitness reports, Landell had been heckled by two fans near the dressing room area and one spectator attacked Landell, who reportedly began brawling back.

The fight continued outside the arena, according to officers and a companion of wrestler Wendell Cooley, who witnessed part of the incident. Landell and the fan, whose identity was not available, were taken to the Jackson Police Department. Landell was reportedly released later the same evening.

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